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ONTARIO COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

MINUTES

4-00-01 MEETING

Open Meeting with Council of Ontario Universities (COU)

LOCATION

COU Board Room
8th Floor, Robarts Library
130 St. George St.
Toronto.

DATE AND TIME

October 26, 1974
9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

4-00-02 PRESENT

OCUA Members

W. E. Bagnall
John J. Deutsch
J. S. Dupré
James D. Fisher
Lin Good
T. Giesbrecht
T. R. Léger
J. F. Mustard
R. S. Ritchie

Mary Bush
A. D'Iorio
Paul D. Fleck
Reva Gerstein
Wm. A. Goyan
Daniel G. Hill
A. L. McCallion
Margaret Orange
H. Harold Walker

J. R. Yarnell

OCUA Staff

J. P. Venton
Executive Secretary

N. E. Simmons
Associate Secretary

COU Secretariat

(see attached list of participants)

Guests

(see attached list of participants)

Council of Ontario Universities

Joint Meeting with Ontario Council on University Affairs

October 26, 1974

List of Participants

Members

Brock	- A. J. Earp, President G. V. Kidson, Department of Physics
Carleton	- M. K. Oliver, President D. K. Dale, Department of Mathematics
Guelph	- W. C. Winegard, President (Chairman) R. G. Thomson, Department of Pathology
Lakehead	- G. Thompson, Vice President, Finance (for A. Booth)
Laurentian	- D. A. B. Pearson, Department of Geology
McMaster	- A. N. Bourns, President P. L. Newbigging, Department of Psychology
Ottawa	- R. Guindon, Rector C. Lemyre, Faculty of Science
Queen's	- D. G. Sinclair, Dean of Arts and Science (for R. L. Watts) R. D. Fraser, Department of Economics
Toronto	- J. R. Evans, President W. Dunphy, St. Michael's College
Trent	- J. E. Leishman, Vice President, Finance (for T. E. W. Nind) S. F. Gallagher, Department of English Literature
Waterloo	- B. C. Matthews, President D. E. Irish, Department of Chemistry
Western	- M. H. A. Keenleyside, Department of Zoology
Windsor	- F. A. DeMarco, Senior Vice President (for J. F. Leddy) C. MacInnis, Department of Civil Engineering

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|-----------------|---|
| Wilfrid Laurier | - N. H. Taylor, Acting President
J. Weir, Department of Economics |
| York | - W. D. Farr, Vice President
(for H. I. Macdonald)
H. Kaplan, Department of Political Science |

Associates

- | | |
|---|---|
| Ontario Institute for
Studies in Education | - R. W. B. Jackson, Director
G. E. Flower, Co-ordinator
of Graduate Studies |
| Ryerson Polytechnical
Institute | - J. L. Packham, Vice President,
Academic |

Guests

- | | |
|--|---|
| Advisory Committee on
Academic Planning | - M. A. Preston, Executive
Vice-Chairman |
| Committee on Capital
Financing | - G. R. Love, Chairman |
| Committee on Operating
Grants | - C. M. Carmichael |
| Ministry of Colleges
and Universities | - Benson A. Wilson
Assistant Deputy Minister |
| Committee on Research
and Planning | - F. A. Ireland, Secretary |

COU Secretariat

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| John B. Macdonald | - Executive Director |
| B. L. Hansen | - Director of Research |
| G. G. Clarke | - Secretary and Research
Associate |
| R. McDougall | - Research Associate |
| L. Shouldice | - Assistant Secretary |

4-00-03 ROLE OF COU

During the opening remarks, the OCUA members learned that there are four main functions of the Council of Ontario Universities (COU)

1. Managing co-operative activities for Ontario universities such as the operation of the Ontario Universities Application Centre, a library co-ordination system, the Advisory Committee on Academic Planning (ACAP) and undertaking research referred to COU by universities.
2. Acting as an advocate for the interests of universities through the presentation of recommendations and requests to external bodies such as OCUA. The role of advocate is not as strong as it might be because unanimity among COU members does not always prevail.
3. Participating and co-operating with joint committees in studies related to university affairs such as the former joint COU - CUA (Committee on University Affairs) sub-committee on operating grants to universities.
4. Planning university activities through planning studies and monitoring academic programs.

4-00-04 COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION

In line with these functions, COU made the following recommendations:

1. "Effective communication must be maintained between OCUA and COU in the Finance/Operating Grants field and in other areas of mutual concern, whether by a continuation of Joint Subcommittees or by some other means."
2. "There should be a joint effort by OCUA and COU to identify essential information needs and accountability indicators in the area of operating finance which would provide OCUA and government with improved means of evaluating universities' resource requirements and performance."

These recommendations, along with the following were contained in the COU's brief, Inflation and the Formula and a supplement thereto, dated October 25th, 1974, which were presented and reviewed:

3. "As a first priority, the Statement of Principles (appendix to Inflation and the Formula) should be used as the basis for short-term revision to the Ontario Operating Grants Formula. A second and concurrent priority would be to consider the most appropriate mechanisms for financing universities in the decade of the eighties."

4. "The value of the Basic Income Unit for 1975-76 should be set at \$2,283, an increase of 16.8% over the 1974-75 value of \$1,955."
5. "The effects of inflation must also be taken into consideration in determining the value of those extra-formula grants that OCUA decides are necessary."

During the open discussion which followed, attention was centred primarily on the current fiscal situation and prospects for the future.

4-00-05 OPERATING DEFICITS

Most universities reported anticipated current operating deficits for 1974-75, which are expected to total roughly \$10.4 million. It was stressed that, at many of the universities, the figures quoted did not take into account interim salary adjustments which it appeared would be required.

In most instances it was expected that operating reserves could be used to offset the current year's anticipated deficit, but other universities reported that reserves were about to be, or had already been depleted, and in other cases universities were faced with accumulated deficits.

4-00-06 SALARIES

One of the most severe problems facing Ontario universities was reported to be a current differential of up to 50% between university staff (faculty and non-academic) salaries and salaries available elsewhere to similarly-qualified individuals in both the public and private sectors. It was pointed out that, due to formula income limitations, only modest salary increases had been possible at most centres in the recent past. The situation, however, had been exacerbated by recent settlements awarded to technical, secretarial and nursing staff in Ontario hospitals, and by the current negotiations between the Province and CAAT teachers. COU stressed in its supplementary brief that "the size of the BIU (value) has made it impossible for the universities to provide salary increases comparable or even close to those which government is making available to closely related sectors."

4-00-07 STAFFING

Relatively high rates of non-academic staff turnover were reported at many institutions, combined with increased workloads, especially in technical areas. The latter had resulted from the inability to increase the staff complement to match an overall 5% increase in enrolment and to compensate for increased student interest in technically-oriented professional programmes. Also noted was the trend toward increased demands for library services and resultant increased loads for staff in that area.

4-00-08 1975-76 BIU VALUE RECOMMENDATION

Discussion turned to the COU recommendation for an increase in the BIU value of 16.8% for 1975-76. It was stressed that the proposed BIU value of \$2,283 could only be seen as a stop-gap measure designed to prevent further deterioration of the university system, and that the recommended increase would not allow for new developments. Factors which had been considered in the development of the proposal in addition to the salaries and staff complement situation previously noted, included escalating costs of library materials, operational supplies, scientific equipment maintenance, and utilities. The BIU figure of \$2,283 also included a 1% increase to cover the 1974-75 deficits and unmet needs. The council was informed that, subsequent to the preparation of this proposal, funds required in 1975-76 for the purpose of deficits and unmet needs could be expected to exceed the 1% provision.

4-00-09 BIU VALUE INCREASE FOR 1974-75

It was suggested that OCUA give some consideration to the possibility of requesting a supplementary increase in the 1974-75 BIU value in order to offset the serious deficit situation which could be expected to result from continuing escalation of the cost-of-living during the remainder of the 1974-75 fiscal year.

4-00-10 CHANGES TO THE OPERATING FORMULA

COU recognized that both from the point of view of the government and that of the universities, major revisions to the Ontario Operating Grants Formula could not be accommodated in the immediate future. The Council noted that extra-formula grants (amounting to approximately 2% of total formula funds) continued to be of special importance to certain of the smaller institutions. It was pointed out that the universities had differing opinions concerning the viability of the formula.

4-00-11 CAPITAL FINANCING

The COU brief Capital Financing: Funding by Formula and Cyclic Renewal was presented and reviewed. It was noted that, overall, a shortage of space existed in the Ontario universities' system, and there were imbalances of space requirements among the centres as a result of shifts in student enrolment and mix. COU pointed out that there was a supportable requirement for both cyclic renewal and capital formula funds, and that a continued moratorium would result in static and declining physical plants. It was suggested that, in view of increased knowledge, improved information and experience, it was now possible to develop an effective capital financing formula.

The Council noted that the COU brief did not emphasize either cyclic renewal or formula support above the other, due to the need to satisfy all requirements of the various members. It was pointed out that mounting an effective cyclic renewal programme would require an initial minimum outlay of \$27 million in the first year.

It was stressed that universities were faced with a conundrum in capital support, where effective planning was prevented through their inability to predict capital freezes, exceptions from freezes, rates of support, etc., and that it would assist the universities for such funding to be made available at least at a regular rate. It was also pointed out that certain of the universities were required to rent space due to shortages and that such costs were met inappropriately from operating funds.

The Council requested that at some time in the near future arrangements be made for a seminar with the COU Committee on Capital Financing.

4-00-12 LIBRARIES

The quality of university libraries was discussed in general terms, and it was noted that with the exception of the John P. Roberts Library, libraries generally were unable to meet the full spectrum of diverse needs associated with university programming. Objectives in this area included full support of undergraduate library requirements and approximately 80% of beginning graduate programme needs at each centre, with specialization beyond this centralized for the Provincial system at specific institutions.

4-00-13 INTERIM SUPPORT AND THE FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL POSTSECONDARY TRANSFER

In response to a question concerning whether additional provincial grants in 1974-75 might be justified on the ground that the 115 per cent ceiling provision of the federal government's postsecondary fiscal transfer arrangements has not been reached, it was pointed out that the transfer arrangements relate to institutional expenditures, rather than provincial grants.

The Chairman then scheduled an executive session of Council on this matter for the latter part of the afternoon.

N. E. Simmons
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N. E. Simmons
Associate Secretary

J. S. Dupré
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J. S. Dupré, Chairman